

NEWS RELEASE

Commercial Fruit Inventory Survey 2007

Released: September 10, 2007



USDA, NASS
North Carolina
Field Office
PO Box 27767
Raleigh, NC 27611
Phone (919) 856-4394

E-mail: ncagstat@ncmail.net

The Commercial Fruit Inventory Survey is conducted every five years, with the latest survey in 2002. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services contacted all commercial fruit growers for this survey. The survey results represent the 2006 growing season.

Grapes are distributed throughout the state on 1,450 acres. Grape acreages increased 42 percent in the past 5 years, making grapes the fastest growing fruit crop in North Carolina. Grape production has increased, along with the increase in the number of North Carolina wineries, which have doubled since 2002 from support by the Golden Leaf Foundation. The top five varieties are Carlos, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Noble.

Blueberries are grown on 5,200 acres in the state, with the majority being grown in the Coastal Region. The acreage increase is due in part, to the public demand for blueberries and their related health benefits. The top five varieties are Croatan, Reveille, Premier, O'Neal, and Tifblue.

Apples continue to cover the largest area of all fruit crops with 7,250 acres, yet apple tree numbers have been decreasing since 2002. In the last 10 years, the Mountain Region has experienced a large increase in development, and fewer orchards are being passed on to the next generation. Other factors that have influenced the decrease in trees are the decline of apple processors in the early 2000's and weather problems such as the 2004 hurricanes and 2005 floods. However, growers are rebounding and are establishing high density orchards and exploring new fresh market options for their crop. The top five varieties are Rome Semi-Dwarf, Golden Delicious Semi-Dwarf, Red Delicious Semi-Dwarf, Gala Semi-Dwarf, and Rome Seedling.

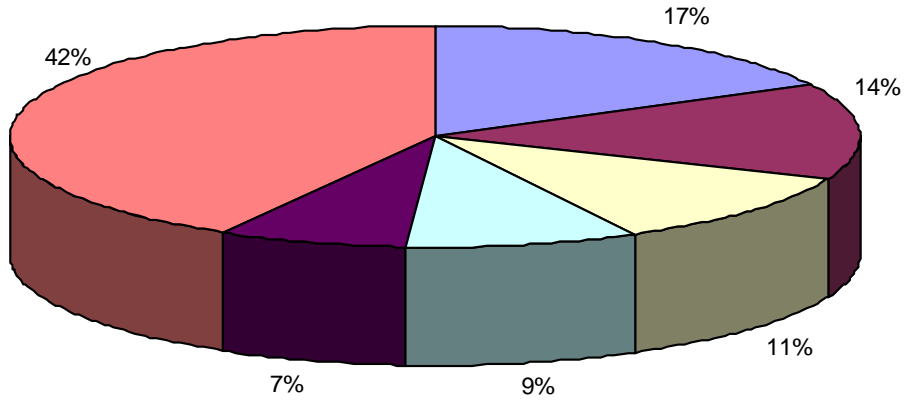
Peaches are grown on 1,350 acres in North Carolina. The predominant peach growing area is the Sandhills, located in the Piedmont Region. However, smaller orchards are being established in other areas of the State. The top five varieties are Contender, Winblo, Cresthaven, Redhaven, and Big Red.

This survey was completed with the support of the North Carolina Wine and Grape Council and the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

For more information please go to <http://www.ncagr.com/stats/latest.htm>

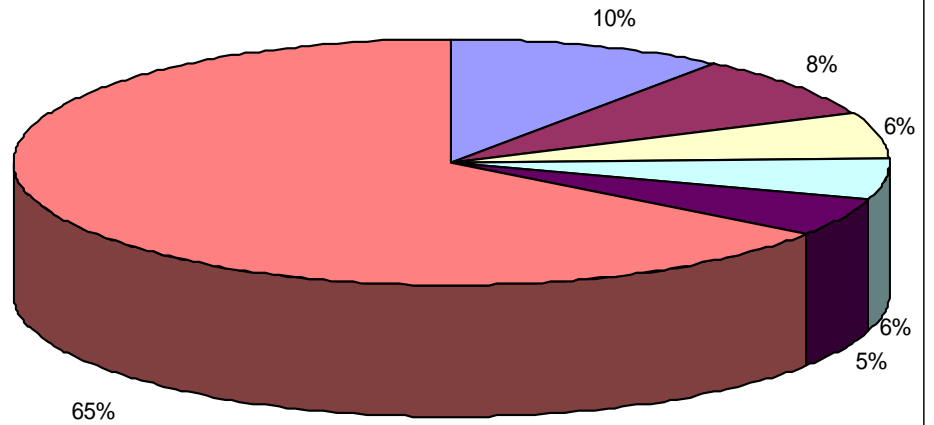
Comparison of Totals by Commodity			
Commodity	2006	2001	1996
Total Number of Trees			
Apples	962,000	1,003,731	1,305,009
Peaches	164,000	127,200	164,762
Total Number of Acres			
Blueberries	5,200	4,498	3,948
Grapes	1,450	1,021	454

Apples: Top 5 Varieties



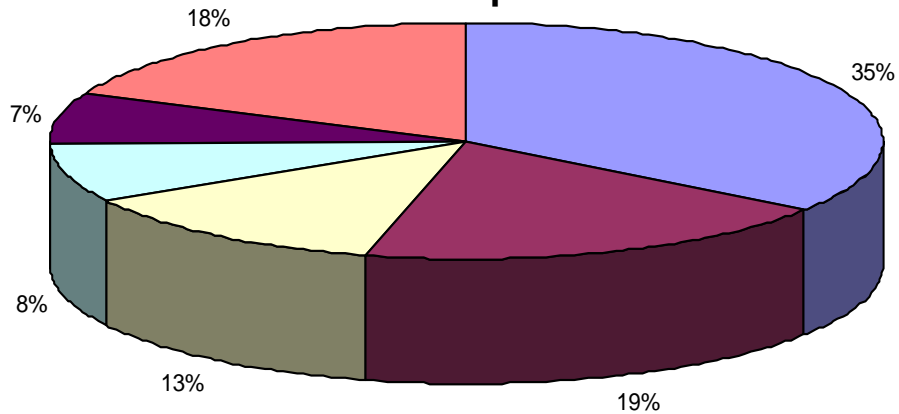
■ Rome Semi-Dwarf	■ GoldenSemi-Dwarf
■ Red DeliciousSemi-Dwarf	■ Gala Semi-Dwarf
■ Rome Seedling	■ Other Varieties

Peaches: Top 5 Varieties



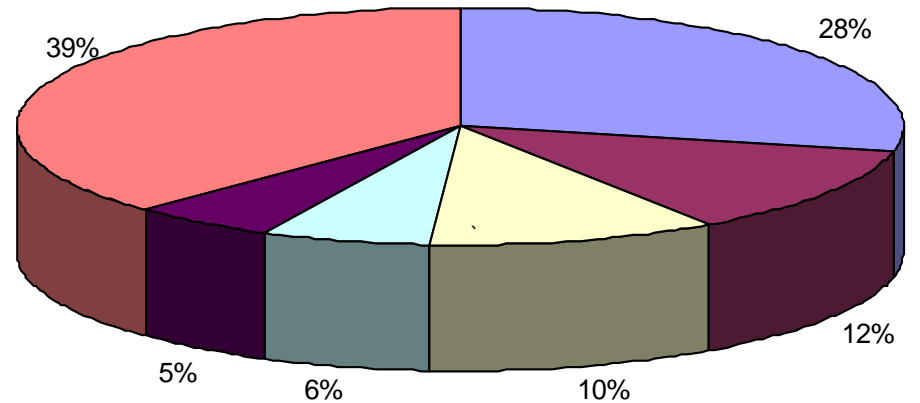
■ Contender	■ Winblo	■ Cresthaven
■ Redhaven	■ Big Red	■ All Other Varieties

Blueberries: Top 5 Varieties



■ Croatan	■ Reveille
■ Premier	■ O'Neal
■ Tifblue	■ Other Varieties

Grapes: Top 5 Varieties



■ Carlos	■ Chardonnay
■ Cabernet Sauvignon	■ Merlot
■ Noble	■ Other Varieties